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SOURCE Chosun Chungang Nyongam (Korean Central Yearbook) 1950, (published by the Chosun Chungang T'ongsin-sa, P'yongyang.)

### CULTURAL INTERCOURSE BETWEEN USSR AND NORTH KOREA

#### A. Establishment of Diplomatic and Cultural Relations

Since its liberation from Japan, over 200,000 volumes of Soviet publications have been distributed in the northern half of the People's Republic. These include the literary works of Generalissimo Stalin, notably A Short History of the Soviet Communist Party (Bolshevik), and selections from Lenin and Marx.

The establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 12 October 1948, and the conclusion of the Economic and Cultural Exchange Pact in March 1949, have accelerated the pace of cultural intercourse and mutual assistances between the two nations.

#### B. Influx of Soviet Scholars

Many Soviet scholars have arrived in North Korea to help improve the 15 universities and other institutions of higher learning, and otherwise develop a higher educational level throughout the People's Republic for the training of state leaders. Over 500 promising Korean youths have been sent to the USSR to study in Soviet colleges. An abundant supply of Soviet textbooks and scientific, technical, and literary books have been imported, translated, and published.

Up to 1949, the following Soviet scholars had come to North Korea to teach: Names preceded by an asterisk represent Korean approximations of foreign names.

\*A. I. Oparin, Dr of Biological Sciences, and member of the Academy of Sciences USSR

M. S. Arutunyan, Dr of Medical Sciences

\*A. I. Malkshevich, Dr of Mathematical Sciences

M. A. Mayisuryan, Dr of Agricultural Sciences

- 1 -

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S. D. Murapaskiy, Dr of Biological Sciences  
 N. N. Kolrosupskiy, Dr of Geographical Sciences  
 P. V. Il'in, Dr of Physical Sciences  
 Vesey'skiy (fnu), Dr of Philosophical Sciences  
 \*V. P. Nishiita, Dr of Technical Sciences  
 V. A. Rysakov, Candidate of Literature  
 A. Y. Rogov, Candidate of Transportation Sciences  
 V. K. Laptev, Candidate of Metallurgical Sciences  
 K. V. Savel'yev, Candidate of Metallurgical Sciences  
 A. I. Saburov, Candidate of Electrical Sciences  
 I. N. Kachechnyy, Candidate of Veterinary Sciences  
 V. I. Chistyakov, Candidate of Mining  
 B. A. Chechenkov, X-ray Specialist in Physicomathematical Sciences  
 D. B. Serpukhin, Candidate of Physical Sciences  
 \*N. N. Sepurukov, Candidate of Nonferrous Metallurgical Sciences  
 N. L. Kuz'min, Candidate of Construction Engineering  
 \*A. N. Pesuhoravunov, Candidate of Veterinary Sciences  
 V. N. Korukov, Candidate of Thermal Power Engineering  
 N. B. Tarasov, Candidate of Mathematical Sciences  
 \*O. A. Amaerina, Veterinarian

The All-Union Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries has established cultural institutes at P'yongyang, Hamhung, and Wonsan to facilitate propagation, research, and assimilation of Soviet culture by the Korean people.

C. Activities of Korean-Soviet Cultural Society

The Korean-Soviet Cultural Society was established on 11 November 1945, for the purpose of advancing the cultural relations between the two nations, and injecting Soviet culture into the Korean people.

The following table shows yearly increases of the membership of this society and expansion of its influence.

	<u>No of Members</u>
November 1945	375
1946	2,735
1947	636,795
1948	1,225,849
Sep 1949	1,341,817

- 2 -

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The "Choso-ban," or the Korean-Soviet Cultural Units [resembling party cells] which constitute the organizational foundation of the society, numbered 19,523 by September 1949.

From July 1946 to September 1949, the society published 906,400 copies of books, representing 84 titles, covering government, economics, literature, and arts.

Under the auspices of the society, 112 Russian-language classes have been established. The number of students has reached 4,590.

To diffuse Soviet culture, the society has expanded its efforts to reach the masses. Lectures, exhibitions, plays, motion pictures, musicals, and round-table discussions sponsored by the society have produced great results. From April to September 1949, cultural propaganda programs for the masses were sponsored 78,288 times, in 26,758 localities, for the benefit of 15,784,121 persons.

Five special committees on social sciences, natural sciences, literature, arts, and physical culture have been organized by the Society to conduct specialized studies in each field of Soviet culture and popularize it among the masses. Every committee member, who also belongs to the society, is an authority in his field. There are 504 such scholars and cultural leaders working for the research committees.

The third convention of the Korean-Soviet Cultural Society, was held 27 - 29 April 1949 at the Moranbong Theater in P'yongyang. The 1,300,000 members of the society sent more than 400 delegates, who represented all fields of activities, to attend the convention. The convention was also attended by Premier Kim Il-song, Kim Tu-pong (chairman of the Presidium), cabinet members, representatives of political parties and social organizations, and Soviet Ambassador Shtikov.

Fraternal groups attending the convention included a Soviet group composed of I. A. \*Kairov, president of the Soviet Academy of Pedagogy; A. A. \*Berowonchov, novelist; M. I. \*Pinokiyenov, artist; and P. D. \*Chachiko, scientist. The Chinese group was composed of Liu Ch'ih-ming, representative of the Northeast China Sino-Soviet Friendship Society, Chin Ta, Li Chun-fu and Hsu Chih. In addition, \*Tukulsulun, chairman of the Soviet-Mongolian Cultural Society, and \*Sanchimitanp, represented Mongolian cultural groups.

#### D. Korean-Soviet Friendship and Soviet Cultural Week

To strengthen friendship between Korea and the USSR and to accelerate further assimilation of Soviet culture, the Korean-Soviet Friendship and Soviet Cultural Week was observed during 14 - 23 October 1949. Workers and farmers alike celebrated the week by increasing production or by establishing new and improving the existing cultural facilities. In celebration of the Korean-Soviet Friendship and Soviet Cultural Week conventions were held on 13 October 1949 in the northern half of the People's Republic at 10,935 places. Some 2,823,089 persons participated in these conventions. Each convention sent a message of gratitude to the great Generalissimo Stalin.

Over 120,540 lectures and round-table discussions were held during the week and were attended by 8,236,780 persons. Through these meetings, the development of industries, the kolkhoz farm system in the USSR, and the happy life of the Soviet people under the Soviet Socialist system were introduced to the Korean people. Various types of exhibitions concerning the USSR were shown at over 24,898 places to some 8,019,664 persons. During the week, the literary and art groups gave 83 public lectures on the works of Soviet writers and artists. A total of 7,843 organizations sponsored numerous public performances of plays, music, and dancing before 3,820,000 persons.

- 3 -

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To assist in the celebration of Korean-Soviet Friendship and Soviet Cultural Week, a group of Soviet theater artists arrived from Moscow on 21 October 1949. These artists were:

\*B. I. Marukichev, general manager of the Moscow Theater of Drama, a renowned and active leader of the Soviet theatrical art.

\*M. N. Kurpat'yev, Stalin-award poet laureate.

\*S. B. Parumov, instructor at the Moscow Theater of Satire.

\*N. B. Yemelyanova, pianist, and assistant professor at the Moscow School of Music.

\*K. B. Kurikoryan, celebrated soprano of the Azebaydzhan Republic.

\*N. K. Shikopechski, violinist, winner of international musical competition.

\*N. D. Rihachov, Bolshoy Theater of Ballet, Moscow.

\*R. B. Melchanova, Bolshoy Theater of Ballet, Moscow.

\*R. E. Upsman, concertmaster.

A. A. Ivanov, representative of the All-Soviet Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

These Soviet theatrical artists stayed until 15 November 1949 and gave 19 public performances of music and dancing at P'yongyang, Ch'ongjin, Songjin, Hamhung, Hungnam, Wonsan, Kanggye, Sinuiju, Namp'o, Haeju, etc. At the round-table discussions with Korean artists, the group impressed the Korean artists with the precepts of Soviet arts.

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- 4 -

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